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RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0278
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5169
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 003648

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [UNSC](#) [MASS](#) [SU](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAI TROOPS FOR DARFUR: AWAITING UN RESPONSE, THEN
CABINET APPROVAL

REF: A. STATE 90022

[1](#)B. BANGKOK 2632 (THAIS FOR DARFUR)

Classified By: Political Counselor Susan M. Sutton, reason: 1.4 (b) and
(d).

[1](#)1. (C) The Thai military hopes to provide an engineering company of 315 troops for peacekeeping under UN auspices in Darfur, according to Colonel Nattapol Saeksaan of the Royal Thai Supreme Command (RTSC) center for peacekeeping operations. Drawing on ref A, we inquired whether these troops were intended for the UN's Heavy Support Package or the Hybrid Operation. Nattapol said the RTG had not determined which element the troops would support (although we note their engineering skill set seems to fit with the former); he seemed unconcerned by the distinction. When asked whether the RTG might be able to provide more troops, especially infantry, for the Hybrid Operation, Nattapol said the RTSC was considering devoting an infantry battalion (approximately 800 troops) for PKO, but the RTG preferred that this battalion go to Chad or the Central African Republic, rather than Sudan. However, Nattapol added that the RTG might prove willing to provide the battalion for PKO in Sudan, if it were to become clear that the UNSC would not approve PKO missions in Chad or the Central Africa Republic.

[1](#)2. (C) Nattapol said his office was in direct contact with the UN's office for peacekeeping operations and had conveyed RTG interest in providing the engineering company for Darfur. The UN had not yet provided an official response, however. Nattapol said the RTSC would put the deployment decision before the cabinet after receiving an official response from the UN. Nattapol stressed that, until the cabinet's approval, the decision to provide troops for Darfur was not final. Given that the RTG had not yet made a final decision on the matter, Nattapol urged that we not discuss publicly RTG plans for Darfur PKO.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: We believe the most effective way to bolster Thai participation in Darfur PKO would be encourage the relevant UN office to be in direct contact with the RTSC, both to provide formal acceptance of the engineering company and to advise of its preference that the infantry battalion be devoted to Darfur.

BOYCE